



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 171

February Session, 2008

Substitute Senate Bill No. 470

Senate, March 26, 2008

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. HARTLEY of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHORTAGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Board of Governors
- 2 of Higher Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
- 3 Health, the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Connecticut
- 4 Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, shall establish, within available
- 5 appropriations, a faculty scholarship for service program to encourage
- 6 state residents to become a qualified faculty member of a nursing or
- 7 other allied health education program within the state. The program
- 8 shall provide, within available appropriations, grants to state residents
- 9 to cover the costs of tuition, fees and books in exchange for service as
- 10 an allied health faculty member at an institution of higher education
- 11 within the state. To be eligible for the program, a candidate shall: (1) Be
- 12 enrolled in a graduate program of an institution of higher education
- 13 leading to a master's or doctoral degree in a field that qualifies such
- 14 person to teach in a nursing or other allied health education program

15 within the state, and (2) commit to teaching in a nursing or other allied
16 health education program, upon graduation from such program,
17 within the state for a period of time to be determined by the
18 Commissioner of Higher Education. For the purposes of this section,
19 "allied health faculty member" means a faculty member qualified by
20 special training, education, skills and experience to provide instruction
21 in a health-related program, including, but not limited to, nursing,
22 physical therapy, dental hygiene, physician assistant, radiation
23 therapy, radiologic technology, occupational therapy, cardiovascular
24 technology, cardiovascular perfusion, nuclear medicine technology,
25 respiratory care and surgical technology.

26 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall develop additional
27 eligibility requirements for recipients, which may include income
28 guidelines, publish criteria and make available application forms to
29 implement the program in accordance with this section.

30 (c) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, after consultation
31 with the Commissioner of Public Health, the State Board of Examiners
32 for Nursing and the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy
33 Board, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the
34 general statutes, to implement the program, including establishing (1)
35 the period of time a recipient must commit to teaching pursuant to
36 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, (2) additional eligibility
37 requirements pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (3)
38 procedures for administration of the program.

39 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Board of Governors of
40 Higher Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
41 Health, the State Board of Examiners for Nursing and the Connecticut
42 Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, shall establish, within available
43 appropriations, a program for the forgiveness of loans provided by the
44 state to residents for nursing or allied health education who become a
45 faculty member of a nursing or allied health education program within
46 the state. The loan shall be forgiven if the resident remains as a faculty
47 member of a nursing or allied health education program in the state for

48 five consecutive years. For purposes of this section, (1) "nursing or
49 allied health education" includes any health-related program of study
50 and courses for entry to or advancement in a health-related profession
51 or to upgrade knowledge and skills for such profession, and (2)
52 "health-related" includes, but is not limited to, nursing, physical
53 therapy, dental hygiene, physician assistant, radiation therapy,
54 radiologic technology, occupational therapy, cardiovascular
55 technology, cardiovascular perfusion, nuclear medicine technology,
56 respiratory care and surgical technology.

57 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall publish criteria and
58 make available application forms to implement the loan forgiveness
59 program in accordance with this section.

60 (c) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, after consultation
61 with the Commissioner of Public Health, the State Board of Examiners
62 for Nursing and the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy
63 Board, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the
64 general statutes, to establish procedures to administer the program for
65 the forgiveness of loans provided by the state to residents for nursing
66 or allied health education within the state who become a qualified
67 faculty member of a nursing or allied health education program in the
68 state as described in this section.

69 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established a
70 Connecticut allied health faculty incentive program administered by
71 the Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

72 (b) The program shall provide, within available appropriations,
73 grants to institutions of higher education that work collaboratively
74 with hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490 of the 2008 supplement to
75 the general statutes, to (1) establish or expand allied health education
76 programs designed to qualify a person who successfully completes
77 such program to teach or train allied health students enrolled in an
78 allied health program leading to a bachelor's degree or certification, or
79 (2) encourage persons employed by hospitals or in other industries,
80 who are qualified to teach or train students enrolled in an allied health

81 program leading to a bachelor's degree or certification, to serve as full-
82 time or part-time faculty members at institutions of higher education.

83 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Higher Education
84 shall conduct a review of nursing and allied health facilities in order to
85 assess capacity and determine the need for classrooms and laboratory
86 expansion. Not later than January 1, 2009, the Department of Higher
87 Education shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
88 general statutes, on the findings of such review to the joint standing
89 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
90 relating to higher education and employment advancement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Higher Ed., Dept.	GF - Cost	450,000	400,000
Workforce Competitiveness, Off.	GF - Cost	\$605,000- \$625,000	565,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill requires the Department of Higher Education (DHE), within available appropriations, to create a faculty scholarship-for-service program, where state residents receive a grant to cover tuition, fees, and books in exchange for services as an allied health faculty member at an institution of higher education. It is anticipated that the cost of developing a faculty scholarship-for-services program through DHE, would be approximately \$100,000. Since there are no funds currently dedicated to this program, the agency would have to reallocate resources from other purposes dedicated to non-mandated programs, or reduce the size and scope of this program to fit within available funds.

Section 2 establishes a loan forgiveness program, within available appropriations, administered by DHE for nursing and allied health faculty. In order to qualify for loan forgiveness an individual must be a state resident and must remain a faculty member in the state for five consecutive years. It is anticipated that the cost of developing a loan forgiveness program, to be administered through DHE, would be \$300,000. Since there are no funds currently dedicated to this program, the agency would have to reallocate resources from other purposes dedicated to non-mandated programs, or reduce the size and scope of this program to fit within available funds.

Section 3 requires the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) to establish and administer, within available appropriations, the Connecticut allied health faculty incentive program. Between \$80,000 and \$100,000 is estimated to fund a full-time consultant to establish the program in FY 09. Approximately \$40,000 for a staff member or contract personnel to administer the program is estimated for FY 10. In addition, \$525,000 for grant funding is estimated in both FY 09 and FY 10. Since there are no funds currently dedicated to this program, the agency would have to reallocate resources from other purposes dedicated to non-mandated programs.

Section 4 requires DHE to conduct a review of nursing and allied health facilities and to assess capacity and the need for expansion. DHE must report its findings to the General Assembly by January 1, 2009. Based on the size and scope of the review, it is anticipated that DHE would require additional funds of up to \$50,000. The additional funds would allow DHE to contract for services to complete the assessment.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, except for the assessment provision contained in **Section 4**, which would be one-time in nature.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 470*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHORTAGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes faculty scholarship-for-service and loan forgiveness programs for nursing and allied health faculty. It also establishes a Connecticut allied health faculty incentive program for higher education institutions that work collaboratively with hospitals to (1) establish or expand programs that prepare individuals to teach in allied health fields or (2) encourage qualified people to teach allied health programs.

It requires the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to review nursing and allied health facilities to assess their capacity and determine the need for more classrooms and laboratories. DHE must report its findings by January 1, 2009 to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008, except for the provision concerning the nursing and allied health facilities review, which is effective upon passage.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM***Grant Purposes and Eligibility Criteria***

The bill requires the Board of Governors of Higher Education, in consultation with the public health commissioner, State Board of Examiners for Nursing, and Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, to establish a nursing or allied health faculty scholarship-for-service program to encourage state residents to become qualified nursing or allied health faculty members in the state. The program must provide grants to cover tuition, fees, and books in exchange for

service as an allied health faculty member at a college or university in the state. The board of governors must establish and operate the program within available appropriations.

Candidates must (1) be enrolled in a higher education institution program leading to a master's or doctoral degree in a field that qualifies them to teach nursing or allied health subjects and (2) upon graduating from the program, commit to teaching in a nursing or allied health education program in the state for a period the higher education commissioner determines.

DHE must (1) develop additional eligibility requirements for grant recipients, which may include income guidelines; (2) publish the criteria; and (3) make application forms available.

Implementing Regulations

The board of governors, after consulting with the public health commissioner, State Board of Examiners for Nursing, and the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, must adopt implementing regulations. The regulations must establish (1) the time grant recipients must commit to teaching, (2) additional eligibility requirements, and (3) program administration procedures.

LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

The bill requires the Board of Governors of Higher Education, in consultation with the public health commissioner, State Board of Examiners for Nursing, and Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, to establish a nursing and allied health education loan forgiveness program for nursing and allied health faculty. To qualify for the program, an individual must be a state resident and remain a faculty member in the state for five consecutive years.

DHE must (1) publish criteria and (2) make application forms available. The board of governors, after consulting with the public health commissioner, State Board of Examiners for Nursing, and the Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, must adopt implementing regulations to establish program administration

procedures.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of the scholarship-for-service program, the bill defines “allied health faculty member” as a faculty member qualified by special training, education, skills, and experience to provide instruction in a health-related program, including the following disciplines: nursing, physical therapy, dental hygiene, physician assistant, radiation therapy, radiologic technology, occupational therapy, cardiovascular technology, cardiovascular perfusion, nuclear medicine technology, respiratory care, and surgical technology.

For purposes of the loan forgiveness program, the bill specifies that “nursing or allied health education” includes any health-related program of study and courses (1) for entry to, or advancement in, a health-related profession or (2) to upgrade knowledge and skills for such profession. “Health related” includes the disciplines listed above.

ALLIED HEALTH FACULTY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Office of Workforce Competitiveness must administer the allied health faculty incentive program. The program must, within available appropriations, provide grants to colleges and universities that work collaboratively with hospitals to (1) establish or expand allied health education programs designed to qualify students to teach or train students in allied health bachelor’s degree or certification programs or (2) encourage hospital employees or those in other industries, who are qualified to teach or train students enrolled in allied health bachelor’s degree or certification programs, to serve as full- or part-time faculty at higher education institutions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/11/2008)